Sir Edmundbury Godfreys Ghost:

OR,

An Answer to *Nat. Thompsons* Scandalous Letter from *Cambridge*, to Mr. *MILES PRANCE*, in Relation to the Murder of Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey*.

The Second Edition, with the Addition of the said Letter *verbatim.*

WHereas *Nat. Thomson*, lately Published *a sham-Letter* from *Sarum*; tending to shuffle off the Murther of Sir *Edmund Bury-Godfrey* from the *Papists*: which was fully Answered in the *Impartial Protestant Mercury*, *N.* 87. by Printing the Testimony of the two *Chyrurgeons* who viewed the Body, and assisted the Coroners Inquest; as also, of Mr. *Browne* the Constable of *Mary-bone*; who took the body out of the ditch, and Housed it, with an *Affidavit* made lately by him the said *Browne*, before the Right Honourable the Present Lord Mayor, that there *was no Blood in the ditch, or field, or any where about the Body, Cloaths, or Sword*; Yet the said *Thompson* on the first, or second of this instant *March*, hath scattered abroad another Scandalous Letter, Signed *Trueman*, and pretended to come from *Cambridge*, but contrived as may justly be suspected, by Mris. *Cellier*, Mris. *Mary Gibbon*, and the *Newgate* Priests; Intituled *a Letter to Miles Prance, in Relation to the Murder of Sir Edmund Bury-Godfrey*, and is being fitting that so false a Libel should be *Midwifed* into the World by a Forgery: he says, Printed *for M. G. at the sign of Sir E. B. G's. head*, by *Fleet-Bridge*, so that it may be supposed he thereby means, *for the said* Mary Gibbon.

Wherefore further to unvail this *Popish* intrigue, and to make it more apparent to the World, we shall first Reprint here, *Verbatim*, what was said on this Subject, in the said *Mercury*, *N.* 87.

WHereas in that lewd Pamphlet called, The *Loyal Protestant and True Domestick Intelligence*, Numb. 105. Printed by *Nat. Thompson*, *Thursday January* 19. 1681. There is Published a Letter, pretended to be sent from *Sarum*, Dated the 15th. of *January*, and signed *E. M.* in these words following,

Sir,

THere having several Discourses been lately whispered about this Town, in Relation to the Death of Sir Edmund Bury Godfrey, *and one point mainly insisted on, to the Evidence given at the Tryal of* Green, Berry, *and* Hill, *by Mr.* Brown *the Constable, that removed his Body out of the place where it was found, and pulled his Sword out of his Body; who I hear lives nigh St. Giles's Pound, and because those Printed Tryals are often mistaken between the Reporter and the Press, by which the Evidence he gave seems Delusive, for being twice asked whether there was any blood (as appears by the Printed Tryal) his answer was, there was no blood in the Ditch, which is not a direct answer to the question: Therefore for the Clearing this Point, it is desired that the said* Brown *would make a plain and full Affidavit in answer to the said question, which will give great satisfaction, and remove all scruples of that Nature. And upon producing such Affidavit, you are desired to pay all his Charges, and for Publick satisfaction to Print the same, it being undeniably true that that Wound must be given him sometime after his Death, in case no quantity of Blood or Water issued out of that Wound before or after the Sword was taken out. Because the Blood stagnifies, as the two Chirurgions that gave Evidence at that Tryal well observed. In the doing of this you will do an acceptable piece of service to the Publick, and highly oblige him who is your faithful Friend to Command* E. M.

Sarum. Jan. 15.

For the satisfaction of all persons, the most material part of the Evidence of the said Mr. *Brown*, is here recited *Verbatim* as it is Printed in the said Tryal, *Folio* 35, 36. as also the most material part of the Evidences of Mr. *Skillard*, and *Cambridge*, the two Chirurgeons, that assisted the Coroner and his Jury, *Folio* 37. & 38.

Mr. Recorder, Pray in what Posture did you find *Sir Edmund Bury Godfrey*?

Mr. *Brown*, I found him, my Lord, in a Ditch with his Sword through him, and the end of it was two handful out of his Back.

Lord Chief Justice, Was he bloody?

Mr. *Brown*, There was *No blood at all*; there was no blood in the Ditch.

Lord Chief Justice, Was the Sword sticking in his Body.

Mr. *Brown*, Yes my Lord, but there was no blood at all when it was taken out, they had run it into another Place, but that happed to be against a Rib, and so it could not go through, but there was no blood there.

Mr. *Skillard*, and Mr. *Cambridge*, the two Chirurgeons, were sworn, as in *Folio* 37. 38.

Mr. Attorney General, Did you observe his Breast? How was it?

Mr. *Skillard*, His Breast was all beaten with some Obtuse Weapon, either with the Feet or hands, or something.

Mr. Attorney General, Did you observe his Neck?

Mr. *Skillard*, Yes; it was Distorted.

Mr. Attorney General, How far?

Mr. *Skillard*, You might have taken the Chin and set it upon either Shoulder.

Mr. Attorney General, Did you observe the Wound?

Mr. *Skillard*, Yes I did, it went in at one Place and stopped at a Rib, the other place it was quite through his Body.

Mr. Attorney General, Do you think he was killed by that Wound?

Mr. *Skillard*, No, for then there would have been some Evacuation of blood, which there was not, and besides, his Bosome was open, and he had a Flannel Waistcote and a Shirt on, and neither those, nor any of his Cloaths were Penetrated.

Mr. Attorney General, But are you sure his Neck had been broken?

Mr. *Skillard*, Yes I am sure.

Mr. Attorney General, Because some have been of opinion that he hanged himself, and his Relations to save his Estate run him through; I would desire to ask the Chirurgeon what he thinks of it?

Mr. *Skillard*, There was more done to his Neck than an ordinary Suffocation; the Wound went through his very Heart, and there would have appeared some blood if it had been done quickly after his Death?

Mr. Recorder, When did you see the Body of Sir *Edmond Bury Godfrey*?

Mr. *Cambridge*, Upon *Fryday*, the very same day the Gentleman did, I found his Neck Dislocated, and his Breast much beaten and bruised, I found two Punctures under his Left Pap, the one went against the Rib, the other quite through the Body under the left Pap.

Mr. Attorney General, Do you believe that wound was the occasion of his Death?

Mr. *Cambridge*, No, I believe it was given him after his Death?

Lord Chief Justice, And his Neck was broken?

Mr. *Cambridge*, His Neck was Dislocated, Sir.

By which Evidence it appears that Mr. *Brown* did not swear Delusively, as by that Letter is insinuated; that there was no blood in the Ditch, but answers to two several questions, that there was *No blood at all.*

Yet because there have been many Designs and Endeavours to pervert the Evidence of that Murther, and to make Reflection thereupon, and in regard the said Letter desires a full Affidavit of Mr. *Brown*, as also for the general satisfaction of all people, the said Mr. *Brown* hath since made full Affidavit of the manner of finding the said Body, which being sworn before the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, follows in these very words, *viz.*

John Brown maketh Oath, that on or about the 17th. day of *Octob.* 1678. This Deponent being then Constable of the Parish of *Marybone* in the County of *Middlesex*, was called by one *John Waters*, and one *Bromley*, who had discovered a dead Body, as they told this Deponent, on or near *Primrose-Hill*, in the said Parish, to see the said Body; and this Deponent having got together thirteen or fourteen of his Neighbours, went down with them to see the same, and found a dead Body lying in the Ditch of the Field, called *Primrose-Hill*, with the Face downwards, and a Sword run through it, coming out at the back; but this Deponent not knowing who the same was, lying on the Face, turned the said Body, and found it to be Sir *Edmund Bury Godfrey*; and this Deponent well observed the place where the said Body lay in the Ditch, and looked carefully round about, and in the Field; but found no blood, either there or elsewhere in the Ditch, or any where, in or about the Field: nor did this Deponent see any signs, spots, or marks of blood about the Body, or about the Cloaths, or Sword; and this Deponent designing to Remove and House the Body: and not able to effect the same without danger of breaking the Sword, drew the said Sword out of the Body; but there came no blood out of the Wound; only a small quantity of Putrified water of a greenish Colour.

John Brown,

Juratus Novo Februarii, 1861. *Coram me*

John Moore *Mayor*.

By which Affidavit, and Evidence of Mr. *Brown*, and of the two Chirurgeons *Skillard* and *Cambridge*, confirmed by the Evidences of *Prince*, from *Folio* 14. to *Folio* 35. and of *Bedlow*, from *Folio* 28. to *Folio* 34. besides other Corroborating Evidences in the said Tryal, it plainly appears how, when, where, and by whom Sir *Edmond Bury Godfrey* was Murdered.

And Mrs. *Cellier*, *James Magrath*, *E. M.* of *Sarum*, the pretended Author of the Letter in *Nat. Thompsons* said Intelligence, or any other Popish Agents, or Sham-Plotters, are defied to make appear any thing to contradict the Truth of that Tryal or Murder.

SO much for Answer, to *Nat. Thompsons* Letter from *Sarum*: we now proceed to make a full Answer, to his pretended *Truemans* Letter from *Cambridge*, annexed *verbatim* to the end of this Paper. And here the World cannot but take notice, That this is Not *the First Attempt*, that has been made to *Sham* off that Murder from the *Papists*, for 'tis Notoriously known to most men, that in *May* last Mrs. *Cellier*, Mrs. *Gibbon*, and the *Newgate* Priests, with the assistance of *James Magrath*, and some such like *Irish* Evidence; did go about to insinuate that Sir *Edmund Bury Godfrey had hanged himself*: and that *Henry More* his Clark *Cut him down*, (as by the Original Papers and Examinations Relating to *James Magrath*, before the Right Honourable the Lords of his Majesties Privy Council fully appears).

But now this *Cambridge* Letter, towards the end of the third *Paragraph*, would have it believed, that he destroyed himself *by his own Sword*; averring in these very words, *viz. That the wound he Received by that Sword, must of Necessity be the cause of his death*; by which the filthy, Incoherence, and Contradictions of both their sham-designs is so Palpable, that no man of Common sense can give Credit to *Either* of them.

And as to what is asserted, in the Preamble of this *Cambridge* Letter, that the Coroners Jury or Inquest, *were first of Opinion, and declared that* Sir Ed. Bury Godfery, was *felo de se*, It is Scandalous and false; and thereby not onely the Reputation of the Memory of Sir *Edmund Bury Godfrey*, but that of the whole Jury, as well as the honor of the Publique Justice of the Nation, are Malitiously Calumniated: Now 'tis impossible that that can be true, or that the Coroners Jury could be of that Opinion; for these two Reasons: 1. At the very first meeting, on the 18 of *October* 1678. they were so fully satisfied

tisfied of his being murdred by others, that the Coroner gave an imediate *Warrant for his Burial*, as by the Copy of the said Warrant it self hereunder doth appear, *viz.*

Mid. ss. *Whereas I with my Inquest, the day and year hereunder, have taken a view of the Body of* Sir *Ed. Berry Godfrey* Kt. *late found Dead within your Parish, and have not yet taken a Verdict of his Death: but have therein proceeded according to Law, these are therefore to Certifie you, that you may lawfully permit, the Body of the said Sir* Edm. *decently to be buried in your Parish. Given under my hand the* 18 *day of* October, *An.* 1678.

Signed Jo. Cooper,
Coroner.

To the Ministers and Churchwardens, of the Parish of Marybone *in the said County, or to the Minister and Churchwardens, of St.* Martins *in the Fields, in the said County,* Greeting.

And secondly, The day following, the said *Inquest* unanimously agreeing gave up their Verdict, which was found in these very words, *viz.*

Middlesex, ss. *An Inquisition Indented; Taken the Eighteenth Day of* October, *In the Thirtieth Year of the Reign of our Soveraign Lord King* Charles *the Second, at the Parish of* Maribone, *in the said County: before* John Cowper, *one of His Majesties Coroners of the said County, upon view of the Body of Sir* Edmond-Berry Godfrey *Knight, then and there lying Dead; by the Oaths of*

Thomas Harris,	Joseph Girle,
Phillip Wine,	John Hartwel,
John Cowsey,	William Lock,
William Collins,	John Owen,
Thomas Wollams,	Simon Standewet,
John Carvil,	Thomas Mason,
Anthony Fryer,	Paul Harding,
Christopher Jarvis,	Mathew Hains, *and*
Robert Trotton,	John Davis,

Good and Lawful Men, of the said Parish, and four Towns thereto next adjoyning: who were sworn, and charged to inquire, for our Soveraign Lord the King; how, when, and where the said Sir Edmond-Bury Godfrey *came to his Death; who say upon their Oaths, that diverse Persons to the Jurors aforesaid unknown, God not having before their Eyes; but being moved, and seduced, by the Instigation of the Devil, the twelfth day of* October, *last past, with force and armes, &c. In and upon the said Sir* Edmond Bury, *in the peace of God, and our Soveraign Lord the King then and there, being at the Parish and County aforesaid, Feloniously, Wilfully, and of their Malice, before thought, did make an Assault, and that the said Persons, to the Jurors aforesaid unknown, a certain piece of Linnen Cloth, of no value, about the Neck of the said Sir* Edmond-Bury, *then and there, Feloniously, Wilfully, and of their Malice before thought, did tye and fasten; and therewith, the said Sir* Edmond-Bury Godfrey, *Feloniously, Wilfully, and of their Malice before thought, did Suffocate and Strangle: of which said Suffocation, and Strangling, he the said Sir* Edmond-Bury *then, and there, Instantly Died: So that they the said Diverse Persons unknown, the said Sir* Edmond-Bury Godfrey, *in manner and form aforesaid, Feloniously, Wilfully, and of their Malice before thought, did Kill, and Murder, against the Peace of our Soveraign Lord the King, his Crown and Dignity— And the Jurors aforesaid, upon their Oaths aforesaid, do further say, that the said Diverse Persons unknown, assoon as they the said Diverse Persons unknown, the Felony and Murder aforesaid, in manner and form aforesaid, Feloniously, Wilfully, and of their Malice before thought, had done and committed—for that Felony and Murder, Feloniously made their Flight, and in places to the Jurors aforesaid yet unknown, did themselves withdraw. In Witness whereof, as well the said Coroner, as the Jurors aforesaid, have to the said Inquisition, put to their Hands and Seals, the day and year first above Written.*

Which Jurors Names, we the rather have inserted; Because in the Preamble of the said Letter, it is further fallsly pretended that *much Art and Skill* was used with the Jury to procure that Verdict: Therefore in regard that all or most of them are now living, and are men of *good Reputation*; We refer any man that has a mind to receive satisfaction herein, to discourse them himself.

And for that other false Assertion in the preamble of the said Letter, of the Juries being denied, *the opening of the Body*: It's so ridiculous, that no man of any Experience, but knows it to be false: Because the *Coroners Inquest*, have the Body on which they enquire, fully in their own Power, to open, and search for their utmost satisfaction, so far as they please; and none could obstruct them therein, though they had designed it.

And as to opposing the *Coroner* of *Westminsters* Assistance, it is Notorious to all the Coroners Jury, that Mr. *Cooper* the Coroner of *Middlesex*, refused it, alledging it properly belong'd to himself only, and there being a Warm Contest, between the two Coroners, as to their Jurisdiction, whether the one, or the other, ought to Act as Coroners, and Mr. *Cooper* refusing to admit him, a disturbance was like to arise, whereupon the *Westminster* Coroner was desired not to hinder the proceeding of the Jury, and had a *Guiney* given him for his charge and trouble coming thither.

And now we shall apply our selves to answer the matter of Fact, in the several Paragraphs of the said *Cambridge* Letter, though it scarce deserves it.

1. In the first Paragraph, 'Tis affirmed that several Persons saw Sir *Edmond-Bury Godfrey* on Saturday, the 12th. of *Octob.* 1678. But names *no man*, except Mr. *Ratcliff*; now if it were so; why did they not appear, and give Information, all the time Sir *Edmond-Bury Godfrey* was missing, as *He* did: or at least, before the Coroners Jury, or at the Tryal of *Green*, *Berry* and *Hill*, as the said Mr. *Ratcliff* likewise did.

As to what is alledged in the beginning of this Paragraph, and in the middle of the seventh, in opposition to *Prance's* Testimony, relating to Sir *Edmond-Bury Godfrey's* being dogg'd; what is said therein, is no contradiction to his Evidence, who did not see Sir *Edmond-Bury Godfrey* all that Saturday *till Night*: and only speaks what others told him who had dog'd him, as in the Printed

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Tryal of *Green, Berry,* & *Hill*, p. 15,16. appears.

2. As to the second Paragraph, which Represents the place where the Body was found, as *inaccessible* on Horse-back: this is known to be false, for that there is *a Lane* leads very near the place where *Cows and Horses* dayly pass through, and the Gates that lead from Feild to Field, in those Grounds, are in the middle of *October* generally left *unlockt*: So that by the Lane, or through the Field, it was not so difficult to carry the Body thither, as this Imaginary Mr. *Trueman* seems to make it: nor does *Prance* say, that they carried him to the very *Ditch on Horse-back*; he going no farther with them then *So-Ho*, and saw the Body put on Horse-back there, as appears page 20. of that Tryal. And the next morning they told *Prance*, that they had *run him through with his own Sword*, then thrown him into a Ditch, and then laid *his Gloves*, and other things upon the Bank. As in the said 20th. page. appears.

So that your false Assertions in the beginning of the first, and in the middle of the seventh and last Paragraph of that your Letter, in opposition to *Prances* Evidence at the said Tryal, and to *Bedlows* Evidence, before the *Lords*; makes much against you, for forging such falsities, to make either of them say, (as you therein do assert) that they *dog'd him*, and decoyed him; when in both their said Evidences, of that Particular, they speak only by *hear-say*, what they were told by others; and *Bedlows* Evidence, of the manner of the Murther, and carrying of the Dead Body from *Somerset-House*, was but by *hear-say*, he being present at neither; only swears that he saw the dead Body there.

And as to the other pretended difficulty you make, of putting him *into a Sedan*; its known by Thousands that saw the Body, his Joynts were *Limber and Pliable*; and might be contracted, or extended, as if he had been alive, and so continued till he was Buried. So that in that point, as well as in all the rest before, you are *Out*. But as to the description of the posture the body lay in, in the Ditch, I must confess, Mr. *Truman*, it is as particular, as if you were one of those that helpt lay it there your self.

3. As to the third Paragraph, Stuft with notorious falsities, as that his Body when found was *full of Blood*, and that there were Cakes, and *Gobbets of Congealed Blood found in his Clothes: and that Gobbets of Blood and Water gushed out of the wound in abundance, not only in the place where the Body lay, & where the Sword was pulled out, but in all its Passage to the White-House*, &c. And your averment, that, that *Wound must of necessity be the cause of his Death*: Also that his Clothes, Belt, and Scabbard, were *Weather-beaten to Rags*, and that his Body *stunck extreamly*: and that his *Eyes, Nostrils, and corners of his Mouth, were Fly-blown*, &c. *'Tis answered*, The untruth of all these wicked assertions appears, not only by the Testimony of the said *Brown*, at the Tryal of *Green, Berry, and Hill*, at the end of page 35. and beginning of page 36. of that Tryal; and by his Affidavit aforementioned; that there was *no blood, either in the Ditch, or Field; or about his Body, Clothes or Sword*: but the same is also evident by the Testimony of Mr. *Skillard* the Chirurgeon, at that Tryal, in p. 37. who swears, that he did *observe the Wound*; that it went in at one place, *and stopt at a Rib; the other place it was quite through the Body*: And to the next question, he answers, that he *did not think he was killed by that Wound*, for then (says he) there *would have been some blood; which there was not*: As likewise by the Affidavit of *Elizabeth Curtis*; who at the time of that Murder, was Servant to *Henry Moore*, Clerk to Sir *Edmond-Bury Godfrey*, and lived in his House, and washed the Linnen and Wollen, which came off from the *dead Body*, which follows in these words.

ELizabeth *Curtis*, late Servant to Mr. *Henry Moore*, Clerk to Sir *Ed. Bury Godfrey*, in his Life time, maketh Oath: That at the time of the Murther of the said Sir *Edmond-Bury Godfrey*, she this Deponent lived in his House in *Hartshorn-Lane*, in the *Strand*: and that she was present in the said House; when his dead Body was brought in thither, and stripped the said Body, that there was no spots of blood upon the Body, that afterwards she washed the same: and this Deponant looked carefully about his Clothes, both Linnen and Wollen, being ordered so to do by the said Mr. *Moore* to search for some Note which was said to be about him; but this Deponent saith, there was no Cakes, Gobbets, or Clods of Blood, in or about any of his Clothes, Linnen or Wollen: nor was there any Note in any of them; and this Deponent afterwards, washed all the said Clothes, Linnen and Wollen, and before she washed them, viewed them well: and there was *no spots, signes, or marks, of any blood*, in or upon his Shirt, Waistcoat, Drawers, or any other of his Clothes, Linnen or Wollen; but this Deponent sayeth, that there were some spots, in the said Shirt, Waistcoat, and Drawers; of a *greenish Colour*, which was dryed on them; and there was also a great many *spots of white Wax*, dropped on his Clothes, and Stockins; and this Deponent further saith, that the Body of the said Sir *Edmond-Bury Godfry*, when this Deponent washed it, did not stink; nor were his Clothes tattered, or ragged, but sound and whole, as they were when he went out of his House in his life time with the said Clothes.

Elizabeth Curtis.

Jurat' 8. Die Martij. 1681.
Coram me John Moore *Mayor.*

ANd it appears by the Testimony of the said two Chirurgeons, at the said Tryal, *Folio* 36, 37. that his Neck *was broken, distorted, or dislocated*; and that they did not believe that he was *killed by that wound*; or that it was the Occasion of his death, but given him after his death: which is a full answer to contradict that false assertion of the *Cambridge* Letter, where 'tis averr'd that *that wound he Received by that Sword, must of Necessity be the cause of his death.*

Another falsity is, that his Cloths, Belt, and Scabbard were weatherbeaten to Raggs, and that his body *stunk* Extreamly: But the said *Brown*, and those that assisted him in the removing the body can attest the Cloths, Belt, and Scabbard, to be sound and whole; and the said *Elizabeth Curtis*, who washed the said Cloths; hath upon Oath attested them not to be tattered, or ragged, and that his body did not stink, as appears by her said Affidavit, and it is alike false, that his Eyes, Nostrils, and Corner of his Mouth were

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Fly-blown it being contrary to Nature and Reason, that in the middle of *October*, and the weather Snowy and Tempestuous, as twas then, that there should be any *Fly-blows* seen.

As to the fourth *Paragraph*, where you say, his face was *Pale*, &c. Thousands that saw his body at the white House can attest the contrary, his face being *Ruddy* and swelled by Reason of the *Suffocation*: Nor was his breast, and belly, nor any part of his body, when found and brought home Putrified as is pretended, either about the wound or any where else, as Thousands can testify, and is also attested by the said *Elizabeth Curtis*, that his body did not stink, which it would have done if it had been putrified.

As to the fifth *Paragraph*, it is no less *absurd* then *false*, that *grass seeds* in the midst of *October* should be found in the Seams of his Shoes, or any where else, at that time of the Year in ground that had been Mowed and eaten off, which smells of the folly of *Popish* Legends; and if as you pretend in this *Paragraph*, the ways were there so dirty, as to *mire the Constable, and those that were with him, up to the Saddle Skirts*; it was impossible for Sir *E.BG.* to walk so far, and get over so many *high Mounds* and *Ditches*, as you speak of in your second *Paragraph*, with so *clean Cloths and Shoes*, as you mention in this fifth *Paragraph*, for though there might be *some grass* in the Fields, yet there could not be grass, *all the way* thither, and therefore the cleanness of his Cloths and Shoes, which you pretend to be an Argument for you, makes against you, and strongly infers the body must *have been carried thither*; and for you to say that a dead man can't hold up his Legs, to save them from the dirt gives just occasion; to tell you that a dead man *can't run himself through*: but those Villains that did the one might with far more ease, *do the other*, who with their wicked accomplices having found away to make a dead man *Ride on Horse Back*, might as well hold up his Legs out of the dirt.

Besides we would be glad to know of you, whether he carried *a burning Wax-candle into the Fields*, to light himself thither, and whither he set it by him burning in the Ditch; for his Cloths were much dropt *with Wax-candle*, as by the late Dean *Lloyd* now Bishop of *Asaphs* Funeral Sermon, *Folio* 20. and the said *Curtis* Affidavit, doth appear; which shews that his destruction came by *night work*, and not by his walking thither in the day, as you would have it.

Sixthly, As to the several ridiculous and impertinent Arguments, used in your sixth *Paragraph*, Mr. *Trueman* seems to have consulted a *Popish Nurse* as well as a *Popish Midwife*, to bring this *Cambridge*-Letter into the World, for you argue upon a Nurses Information, that tells you it is *very common for People to die with Necks as loose as his was*; and that the *Rim* about his Neck, was so far from being made *by a Cravat or Hankerchief*, that it seems made by the *Height, and stiffness of his Collar*: Its answered, That the Evidence of the two Chirurgeons aforesaid, that his Neck was *broken, distorted, or dislocated*; and the aforesaid Verdict of the Coroners Inquest, which have found it done by some *Linnen Cloth*, &c. is a stronger Argument to all men of sence that he was strangled, then your *Popish Midwife* and *Popish Nurses* simple opinions to the Contrary.

As to the seventh *Paragraph*, where you say, that the matters in all the foregoing *Paragraphs* will be *proved, by divers Credible and Undeniable Eye and Ear-witnesses*; We say, Unless they are Named, it may be suspected they are *Irish Evidence*, or such Evidence as Mrs. *Cellier*, Mrs. *Gibbons*, *James Magrath* and the *Newgate Priests* could produce in *May* last to prove that Sir *Ed. Bury Godfrey hanged himself*: and that *Henry Moor* his Clark cut him down as aforesaid, *&c.*

And now in *March* following the same Persons, or some others of their own Party, would prove that he Run himself through in a Ditch, with his own Sword.

HAving thus Examined and fully Answer'd each *Paragraph*, of this forged *Cambridge*-Letter, there are several other particulars that offer themselves to the Readers Consideration.

First, It is apparent Sir *E. B. G.* after Mr. *Oats* had made his discovery to him, was sensible that his life was sought by the Papists: for Mr. *Oats* at the Tryal of *Green, Berry*, and *Hill*, about *Folio* 12. Swears that Sir *E. B. G.* did tell him he had received affronts from GREAT PERSONS, for being so zealous in that business of the discovery of the Plot, and that the week before his death he again complain'd that several *Popish* Lords (some of them since in the *Tower*) had Threatned him, and askt him what he had to do with it, and that he did declare *He went in danger of his life by the Popish Party*, and that he had been dog'd several days; and *Oats* advising him to take his man always with him, he said, *No, I do not fear them, If they do but come fairly.*

This is also confirmed by *Thomas Robinson* Esq. Chief Prothonotary of the Common Pleas (an unreproachable Evidence) *Pag.* 13. of the same Tryal, who swears that on the seventh of *October* discoursing of the Plot, Sir *E. B. G.* said these words to him, *Upon my Conscience I believe I shall be the* FIRST MARTYR, *but I do not fear them if they come fairly, I shall not part with my Life tamely.*

Nay 'tis known that a Gentleman yet living, who was very like Sir *Edmund*, going by Summerset-House in an evening about a week before Sir *E. B. G.* was Murder'd, was set upon, and demanded if he were *not* Sir *Edmund Bury Godfrey*? who answered no, and they having satisfied themselves in the Truth thereof by a nearer view at a Candle, dismiss'd him.

Secondly, The words of the Reverend Dean *Lloyd*, (now Bishop of *Asaph*) in his Funeral Sermon, *Pag.* 23. are very remarkable, speaking to that numerous Auditory, says he, "You can-
"not but remember the dust that was raised in
"the week, when the search should have been
"made, those Calumnies and those various Re-
"ports that went about, as it were, on purpose
"to hinder the discovery; one while he had with-
"drawn himself for debt, another while he was
"married, *&c.* At last, when they knew what
"they intended to do with him, they prepared
"you to expect it by giving out THAT HE
"HAD KILL'D HIMSELF, you know how
"impatient they were to have this believed. I
"was told it some hours before the discovery,
"that he was found with his own sword through
"his body, others would tell that he had two
"wounds about him. These things were found
"to be true (*says that Reverend Person*) some

"hours after. Now this being before the Body was discovered, had he murdred himself, these Particulrrs were impossible to have been known; but it was easie for these Villains that had murder'd him, and thus disposed of his Body, to tell in what Condition the same should be found.

We do affirm, that Sir E. B. G. was Murdered by the *Papists* in *Sommerset-House*: Because on the 12th of *October*, 1678. The very night they Muthered him, they wrote thereof, to Mr. *Evers* a Jesuit, at *Tixal*, in *Staffordshire* (in these words [This night Sir *E. B. G.* is dispatcht] and this Letter came thither, on *Munday* the 14th of that Month, as Mr. *Stephen Dugdale* deposeth, at the Tryal of my Lord *Stafford*, in page 22. Whose testimony was confirmed, at that Tryal, by four Witnesses of very good Reputation, *viz.* by *James Ansel*, in page 134. and 135. And by *William Hanson*, in page 135. who both depose that on *Monday*, the 14th of *October*, 1678. in the Forenoon they heard it from *Dugdale* at one *Eld's* an Alehouse at *Tixal*, that a Justice of Peace was Murdered (says *Ansel*) and that a Justice of Peace was Murdered, that lived at *Westminster* (says *Hanson*) and *Edward Birch* Esquire, confirmed the same in page 136 of that Tryal, and deposeth that he did before *Thursday*, he thinks on *Tuesday* (hear it in that Country) that there was a Justice of Peace of *Middlesex* killed; and that it was thought the Papists Murdered him; and that this on *Tuesday*, and *Wednsday* next after his death, was all over the Country: And *John Turton* Esquire, confirms the same, in page 137. of that Tryal; and deposeth, that either *Tuesday* the 15 or *Friday* the 18 of *October*, 1678. He was told it at a Horse Race near *Lichfield*, that Sir *Edmondbury Godfrey* was Murdered: And Mr. *Chetwin* a person of very good quality confirms the same, at the Tryal of the five Jesuits, *Whitebread*, *Fenwick* &c. about Fo. 25. though it was not publickly known here in *London*, until *Thursday* in the Evening the 17 day of *October*, 1678.

The Testimony of Mr. *Prance* is much Corroborated not only by the many *drops* of *Wax-Candle* found upon Sir *Edmondbury Godfrey's* Hat and Clothes, which is highly probable considering they laid him (as he Attests) in Doctor *Goddins* Lodgings, where they generally burn *Wax-Candles*, having (as we are credibly informed) all the Remainder of what is not spent in the Chappel; But also by the Evidence of *Eliz. Curtis* at the Tryal of *Green*, *Berry*, and *Hill*, who swears that *Hill* (who was Hanged for one of the Murderers) was with Sir *Edmondbury Godfrey* that very *Saturday* Morning on which he was killed. But especially the same is confirmed by the Servant at the Queens-head at *Bow*. Whereas *Prance* swears that after the Murder he and others concerned met there, where he was shewn a Paper of the manner of the Murder drawn up (as they said) to be shewn to the Lord *Bellasis* and other great Persons, the foresaid Servant, at the last mentioned Tryal, page 43. Swears positively that *Prance* and such persons were there. And that they pulled out a Paper and read it, and named Sir *Edmondbury-Godfrey's* name, and whilst he stood without the Door, one of them apprehending that he listned to what past within between them, came out and threatned to kick him down Stairs.

Lastly, To shew all the World what kind of People they are, that contrive, print, publish, and promote these kind of impudent *lies and shams*, and what credit is to be given to their confident Asseverations, *Nat. Thompson* shall be a Witness against *Nat. Thompson*, and prove himself a shameless forger of lies in the face of the Sun. For it is most certain, that this Letter to Mr. *Prance* was publisht by *Nat. Thompson* the Printer in *Fetter-Lane*; if he deny it, 'twill be abundantly prov'd, and it may be one day to his cost; besides in his lying Intelligence he talkes and vapours to the same Tune. Now 'tis also most true, That this very *Thomson* the next morning after Sir *E.B. Godfry's* Body was found, went early to the White-house, and viewed the Body, and put his hand to the very Wound and pressed the part, and yet not a drop of Blood issued forth, but only a little putrified Water; Nor was there any Blood on the Table or Floor, as will be attested by the Person that went along thither with *Thompson*: And having inform'd themselves very well of all Circumstances, the said Person and *Thompson* came back and wrote a Book which *Thompson* Printed and Published, *Octob.* 19. 78. intituled, *A True and Perfect Narrative of the late Terrible and Bloody* MURDER *of Sir* Edmundbury Godfrey, &c. Printed by *N. T.* Which Book is said to be *With Allowance*: And the Truth is, *Nat. Thompson* did procure some of the Coroners Inquest to go with him to Mr. *Roger L'Estrange* (then Licenser) to attest the truth thereof, but Mr. *L'Estrange* did refuse to license it, saying That though he did not question the Truth of the matter of Fact as therein related, yet he did not know but by Licensing it, *He might Offend some Great Persons at Woite-Hall*, and so did not set his hand to it, but the Words *with Allowance* were wrought off at the Press before, not doubting but he would have Licens'd it.

So much of this Narrative of *Thompson's* as is material to the matters now questioned, we shall fairly recite *verbatim*.

In Page 6,7. *Thompson* tells us, That, "On Friday the Eighteenth of this instant, Mr. *Cooper* the Coroner of *Middlesex*, "Impannel'd a Jury at the *White-House*, to inquire about the "occasion of the Death of the said Sir *Edmond-Bury* and "two Chirurgions, (having been first Sworn) viewed the "Body in the presence of the Coroners and Jury: And "found two wounds about it, which one of the Chirurgions searched with his Probe, and found one of them not "above an Inch deep, the Probe going against one of his "Ribs; But the other being a little below the left Pap, went "quite thorough the Body: *His Face was of a fresh colour*, "*though in his life time very Pale*, somewhat swell'd, and a "green circle about his Neck, as if he had been strangled, "his Blood being setled about his Neck, Throat and the upper "part of his Breast: The Chirurgions having viewed the Body, delivered their Judgments, *That the Wounds they found* "*about him, were not the cause of his Death*, but that he "was SUFFOCATED before the Wounds were made. And "that which may fully perswade any person of the truth "thereof, is, THAT THERE WAS NOT ONE DROP "OF BLOOD to be found in the place where he lay, nor "the least appearance of any such thing: though the Ditch "was dry, and it might have been *easily seen, if there had been* "*any*. Another thing was, that the very bottom of the Soles "of his Shoes were as clean as if he had but just come out of his "own Chamber; which was an EVIDENT SIGN THAT "HE WAS CARRIED THITHER.

"A third thing very Remarkable is, That one of the Jury "affirmed, that a Servant of his Mothers (who is owner of "the Ground where the Body lay) with a Butcher and two "Boys, made a very strict and narrow search in all parts "of that ground for a Calf that was missing, upon *Monday* "and *Tuesday* last, and at that time there lay no Dead Body "Belt, Gloves, stick, or other things there. *And page* 8. "It is no wonder that those inhumane Wretches that have ta"ken away his Life, should go also about to blast his Repu"tation.

Thus far *Nat. Thomson*, in that Narrative, *Printed upon his own View and Knowledge*, and whilst the Circumstances were fresh in every bodies memory. Now let the Reader Compare this *Account*, with *that* which he would now *Sham* upon the World, with his Letters from *Saum* and *Cambridge*, &c. and then Judge whether such an Impudent Lyar and daring Factor for the *Popish* Interest, do not deserve an Exemplary punishment.

We have throughout this Answer, forborn all Flourishes and picquancy of stile, for tho nothing be more Ridiculous than to see how vainly the *Papists* struggled to rid their hands of the Guilt of this Worthy Gentlemans Murder, which as it is an *Undeniable* so it will remain an *Everlasting* Testimony, of their Damnable *Plot*, notwithstanding all their Efforts to stifle it; yet tis matter of *serious sadness* to see men dare with *Impunity* Publish such notorious Scandals; Which tho obvious enough to all men of sence and Consideration, might yet perhaps on weak unthinking people make some Impressions, if they should not meet with a Publique Confutation, which should have been abroad some days ago, had we not waited for that *Further Letter*, which *Nat.* both in the name of *Trueman*, and in his own Intelligence, Threatens.

But let the Traiterous *Popish* Faction, Forge a thousand Sham-Letters, and Coyn every day *Fresh Lies*, about it, and suborn perhaps some indigent Villains to Testify some of their Fictions, yet Truth is *Invincible*, and they will find at last that the great Lawyer *Papinian*, was in the Right, who when the Emperor *Caracalla*, having killed his brother *Geta*, would have had him to palliate it by his subtle Eloquence, refused it, telling him, Tis not, Sir! *so Easy to excuse a Murder as to Commit it*. And therefore you, Mr. *Unknown Trueman*, You Mrs. *Mary Gibbon*, Mrs. *Cellier*, *James Macgrath*, E.M.

of

of *Sarum*, Implement *Nat. Thompson*, and all your *Newgate Priests*, Popish Scribblers, Agents, and Sham-Plotters, all and every of you are once more defy'd. To make appear any thing that is *Credible* or *Rational* in Contradiction to the legal Testimonies that have been given concerning the said Murder villanously perpetrated by the *Papists*.

The Letter publisht by *Nat. Thompson*, to which the foregoing Leaves are an Answer, is as follows:

A LETTER to Mr. *Miles Prance*, in Relation to the Murther of Sir *Edmondbury Godfrey*.

Mr. *Prance*,

PErceiving by some late Pamphlets several Rumors rais'd, as if there were endeavours us'd to asperse your *Evidence* in Relation to the Death of Sir *E. B. G.* and to lay that Murther upon Himself. And remembring the *Consternation* which then was in all peoples minds by the Discovery at that time of a Dreadful and most Horrid *Popish Plot*, which occasion'd divers to report, and most to believe (even several days before the dead Body was found) *That he was Murder'd* by *the* Papists *at* Somerset-house. And hearing that the *Coroners Jury* or *Inquest* were first of Opinion, and accordingly declar'd he was *Felo de Se*; And that there was much Art and Skill us'd to procure their *Verdict* to the contrary; More particularly, the refusing of the Body (at their Instance and request) to be open'd; and opposing the Assistance of the *Coroner* of *Westminster*, (who is taken notice of to be a Knowing and Imparrial Man in the Execution of his Office;) who was desir'd to, and did attend for that purpose, but was dismist with a *Guiney*; telling him, they had no need of his Service. I made it my business, partly for Yours, but chiefly for the Truths sake, to make a strict Enquiry into the farther Causes of the aforesaid Rumours, and do find these particulars very much urg'd, and discours'd of, *(viz.)*

I. In opposition to the Evidence of his being dog'd up and down, and lodg'd in a great House at St. *Clements* on *Saturday* the 12. of *October* 1678. (being the day he was first missing.) It is affirm'd he went out of his House that very *Saturday* morning about nine a Clock; (which is the last time he ever return'd thither;) And about 10 that Forenoon was in the Fields walking towards *Marybone*, (in which Parish his dead Corps was afterwards found;) And was there met by a Brewer in St. *Giles*'s, who discours'd with him; And about 11 of the same day he was seen passing by the Lady *Cooks* Lodgings near the *Cock-pit*; After which, he was seen in St. *Martin's-lane*, went by the Church, and down *Church lane* into the *Strand*; About 1 passed by the dore of one Mr. *Ratcliff* an Oyl-man in the *Strand*, And soon after was met in the back Court of *Lincolns-Inne* by two Gentlemen, who observed him to make a sudden turn, and to go out at the back Dore; They went out at that Dore also, and did see him turn the corner Wall; between which place and *Turn-Stile*, he was met by a Barrister at Law; And that a person living near *Primrose-Hill*, declar'd before divers persons, that he saw him about 3 that *Saturday* in the Afternoon walking in those Fields, his usual Walk being that way.

II. They say, the place where, and the posture wherein he was found, are very remarkable. As to the place; It was in a Ditch on the South side of *Primrose-Hill*, surrounded with divers *Closes*, Fenced with high Mounds and Ditches, no Road near, only some deep dirty Lanes made only for the conveniency for driving *Cows* and such like *Cattle* in and out of the Grounds; And those very Lanes not coming near 500 yards of the place, and impossible for any Man on Horse back with a *Dead Corps* before him at Midnight to approach, unless Gaps were made ith' Mounds, as the *Constable* and his Assistants found by Experience when they came on Horseback thither. As to the posture, his Breast was Unbutton'd, his Wastcoat and Shirt put by, his Sword run in under his left Pap next his Skin, the Point coming out at his right Shoulder about six Inches, his left Arm doubled under him, (on which his Head seem'd to lean,) and his right Arm stiff, stretcht out upon the Bank, his Belly and Breast being supported by the side of the Bank, his Knees knit together, and with his Hips a little bending or doubling under him.

And they infer from thence, that he being a tall raw-bon'd Man, (after he had been several days dead,) could never be crooked so as to be cram'd into a *Sedan*, (which are very low built, and difficult to be carry'd with proper Braces, much more as You Evidenc'd with *Cords*,) then straightned, and his Legs open'd, and mounted on Horseback, and then put into the posture he was found in, and stiffen'd again.

III. Now although the Matters aforesaid may be said to be only *circumstantial*, Yet they produce undeniable Arguments against your Evidence, (*viz.*) *They say, that if a Man, or any other Creature be Strangled, or Hanged, and his Body cold, and the Blood settled in the Veins*, (as he must needs be if Your *Evidence* be true,) *run* 20 *Swords through such a Body, not one drop of Blood will come out*: But on the contrary, his Body when found, was full of Blood, insomuch, that (over and above the *Cakes* or great Goblets of congeal'd putrify'd Blood found afterwards in his *Cloaths*) the *Constable* when he pull'd the Sword out of his Body, it crash'd against his Back-bone, and Gobbets of Blood and Water gush'd or gubbled out of that Wound in abundance, not only in that very place where the Sword was pull'd out, but in all his passage to the *White-house*, especially there where his Body was lifted over two high Stumps; and also when he was laid upon the Table, the Blood and Water so issu'd out of that Wound, that it ran from off the Table upon the Floor, and from thence into the Cellar; So that they do aver, that that Wound that he receiv'd by that Sword must of necessity be the cause of his Death. And they take notice, that so much of the Sword as was in his Body, was discolour'd and blackish; and that part that came out at his back was of a dullish colour, and the Point thereof was rusty; Also, that his *Cloaths*, *Belt* and *Scabbard* were weather-beaten to rags; his Body stunk extremely; his Eyes, Nostrils, and corners of his Mouth were

Fly-

Fly-blown; all which must naturally be by his being so long in the Air.

IV. They say, *That when a Man is Strangled or Hanged, his Eyes will be extorted, his Face will be swell'd and black*; Whereas His Eyes were shut, his Face was pale, only the left part of his Chin, with his Breast and Belly being next the Earth, were putrified, and look'd of a Blue and Greenish colour, more especially about the Wound; For that the Blood, when hot, running to the Wound, caus'd the greater putrefaction in that place; Whenas, if the Wound had been made after he was Dead, and Cold, the rest of his Body would have putrify'd as soon, and as much as there.

V. They say, *That the cleanness of his Shoes makes against Your Evidence; For his Shoes were clean'd or rather glaz'd on the very bottoms of the Soles, occasion'd by his walking in the Grass, and Grass-seeds were Observ'd to stick in the Seams of his Shoes; And besides, there was not one speck of Dirt on his Cloaths, or Legs, not so much as a Horse-hair sticking thereon*; Whereas, the *Constable*, and those that went with him, were dirty'd and moil'd up to the very Saddle-skirts, and not easily to be cleaned; And Mr. *Prance*, you know that a tall *Dead Man* on Horse-back, cannot lift up his Legs to save them from the Dirt.

VI. As to the looseness of his Neck, and the Rim or Green Circle about it, They say they are Ridiculous and Impertinent Arguments against so many Demonstrative ones; especially, when there is not a *Nurse*, or any Woman of Age, that hath bury'd any Relations, but will tell you it's very common for People to die with Necks as loose as his was: And the Rim about his Neck was so far from being like one made with a *Cravat* or *Handkerchief*, that it seems to be occasion'd by the great height and stiffness of his *Collar*, which was fast Button'd about his Neck, and on which his Head wrested, and was unbutton'd about 10 of the Clock the next day, before the *Coroner* or *Jury* came. But if that Rim, or those Bruises, that Your Evidence seems to make the cause of his Death, were really so; Then they alledg, that in such case, the whole Mass of Blood would have settled there, and his Neck and Bruises would have swell'd, and have been perfect Black, which was not in His Case.

VII. They also say, That all these Matters are Notorious, and will be prov'd by divers credible and undeniable Eye and Ear Witnesses; And besides, They observe, that *Bedlow*'s (before the *Committee of Lords*,) and Your *Evidence* in Relation to this Gentlemans Death, are as different as the *East* is from the *West*; For You Dogg him out of St. *Clements*; the other decoys him from *Charing-Cross*: You swear he was Strangled with a Hankerchief near the Stables going to the Water-side; *Bedlow*, that he was Smother'd with a *Pillow* in a Room in the great *Court* in *Somerset-House*. You say he took Horse at *So-ho*; *Bedlow* says he took *Coach* at *Clarenden-House*, with many more such like *Contradictions*; And considering the Old Proverb, *fore-warn'd, fore-arm'd*. A further and fuller Account of the whole matter expect, I being loath at present to exceed the bounds of a Letter, I am,

Sir,

Your very Loving Friend,

Cambridge, *Feb.* 23. 1681.

Truman.

London, Printed for *M. G.* at the Sign of Sir *E. B. G*'s. Head near *Fleet-bridge*.

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